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# DIGEST

OF

## GOVERNMENT:

TOGETHER WITH

Certain Additional PROPOSALS

TENDERED

To the Consideration of all Peace-  
able PATRIOTS.

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By *William Ball, Esq;*

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LONDON, Printed for *Thomas Johnson*, at the signe of the  
in *Paul's Church-Yard*, 1659.

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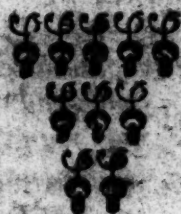
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THIRD EDITION

To the Consideration of all Peace-  
able PATRIOTS.

By William Ball, Esq.



LONDON: Printed for J. Smith, at the Sign of the  
in Pall Mall, 1849.



## Additional Proposals, &c.

**F**irst, That *Explanation* be made of all ambiguous Clauses, and words, in any Law, Statute, or Act of Parliament, which may admit of different, or indifferent constructions; that so the Letter of the Law may be direct, and plain (as in Reason it ought to be) and that ten Judges may not interpret the Law by way of *Interpretment*, and seem therein rather *discere*, than *dicere*; by which means they have done, and may do, wrong.

2 That, (whereas, in regard of the multiplicity of Suits in Law, Hearings are delayed, and sometimes put off from Term to Term, to the obstruction or hinderance of Justice, and to the trouble, charge, and wrong of the Parties aggrieved), the Judges of the Courts at *Westminster* do sit, and hear Causes (if they have any depending before them) on every *Munday, Wednesday, and Friday* in the afternoon in the Term-time, and on the days commonly called *All-Saints, All-soules, the Purification, and St. John Baptist* if it happen within the Term, (for certainly it is reasonable to do justice on any day) and that the *Lord Keeper, or Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal, and the Master of the Rolls* sit once every week (and oftner, if they see cause) in every Vacation: that Suits be not so long depending, and delayed in *Chancery*.

3 That whereas *Writs of Error* are sometimes necessary, and many times the causes of vexations and chargeable delays, to the parties aggrieved; If erroneous Judgment shall therefore be found through Default of the Judges themselves, such Judges to be forthwith displaced, and utterly disabled to meddle in the Law, and suffer murther according to their Demerits. And so touching the Barons of the Exchequer. And if such erroneous Judgment shall be otherwise found, that the party or parties aggrieved be allowed quadruple Costs and Damages; and so, if through the default of the Judges.

• 4 That

4 That *Dumovis* be abolished, and that if the case be matter of Law, and not Fact, Judgment be forthwith given, according to the merit of the cause; unless such case be very difficult, and then the Judges to meet within eight dayes in the *Exchequer Chamber* (as formerly) upon penalty of 100 l. for every Judges default who ought to meet; and then, and there to give a final Determination to the Cause.

5 That all Abators of Lands pay Quadruple Costs and Damages, or suffer severe corporal punishment; and that all Disfeizors of Lands and Rents pay Quadruple costs and damages.

6 That novelles be given in *Chancery* against the lawful Entry of Donors, Flodors, and Leassors; that so their Acts and Deeds be not defalcated by way of Equity; and that all Bills of such nature or pretext, be dismissed of course, or not admitted into *Chancery*.

7 That Deeds of Covenants to stand seized &c. and Wills or Devises for Land invalid, or insufficient, according to the Letter of the Law, be not made valid, or helped by way of Intendment, or Interpretation (which many times have been, and may be wrested) of Law or Equity, against Heirs at Common Law: for it may seem to imply an act of GOD not to permit such Deeds or Devises to be valid, that so Lands may descend according to His Law, *Numb. 27*. And therefore the defects of such ought not to be supplied by Man.

8 That unjust Decrees in *Chancery* be reversed by the Council of State, or by some of them the council appointed or nominated; together with the aid or assistance of such Judges or Sergeants at Law, as they shall think fit to call unto them; and that such as made such unjust Decrees be forthwith displaced, and suffer mulct according to their demerits; howbeit, such as shall complain without just cause, to be severely punished.

9 That whereas there are divers covetous and greedy persons, who desire and labour to incorporate as in *Worms*, and adde Lands to Lands, and will therefore venture to purchase any broken Titles, on purpose by power of their purses (being money'd men) to weary out such as have better Right, thereby to obtain their Rights for little or for some unvaluable consideration, and also to molest and contend with such as have Rents, and charges,

charges, or other engagements in or upon such lands, on purpose to make such parties (especially if mean and malicious) to agree and compound with them to their loss; therefore all such covetous and greedy Parishioners, who shall be lawfully evicted touching Right, Rents, Charges, or other Engagements in, or upon such Lands, shall pay quadruple costs and damages.

10 That whereas divers covetous and greedy persons do not only themselves, but also procure others (who may be termed *Brokers*) to inveigle young Heirs, and others, by flattery, feasting, and merry-making, to sell their Lands, Rights, or Interests, and at such times, and in such manner, obtain or get from them *Agreements, or Contracts*, for the sale of their Lands, Rights, or Interests (many times upon unvaluable considerations, and sometimes to their undoing) therefore all *Agreements & Contracts* so obtained to be null. And also, that the persons themselves, and their procurors (or *Brokers*) using such practice, be severely punished.

That a Council, or Committee of *Audience*, be instituted to sit, hear, and receive such Proposals, as shall be exhibited unto them in writing, touching the Commodities, discommodities, conveniences, inconveniences, advantages, disadvantages, of Commerce, Trade, Manufactures; and of all Improvements, and Aggravances, touching the Publique; and that the said Council, or Committee do consider, and propound to the Parliament, such advancements and furtherances, remedies and redress, as the means of cases shall require.



3 That no Fallens-Earth be transported out of this Land without special License from the Council of State, upon great penalty: and for that sufficient Excize to be imposed: forasmuch as not onely the Low-Countries, but other our Neighbouring Nations, do thereby improve their Mannufactures of Cloathing &c. and dis-improve ours.

4 That Refiners of Sugar be not permitted to refine with Lime, as they usually do: which is not onely a cheat, but un-wholesome for bodily health; and that if there be no other Remedy, such manner of Refining be wholly prohibited.

## Touching Elections of Members for Parliament.

**T**hat the Members for Parliament (for the future) do neither directly or indirectly, by themselves or others, procure themselves to be elected, upon penalty of being dis-enabled to sit in the House, and to pay the Fine of 500 £, to the use of the Commonwealth, and that all Feastings, and Entertainments for Elections be abolished upon like penalty: and that the Freeholders, and such as should elect Members for Parliament, do assemble and meet for Elections at their own charges, upon some penalty, &c. to the use of the Commonwealth (unless some lawful excuse of sickness, &c.) And that if they happen to chuse Knights for the Shire, under the value of 500 £ per annum, and Burgesses for Boroughs under the value of 100 £ per annum, or some way equivalent, that they allow them their Salaries towards their charges (if they shall require or desire it) and any otherwise: and that such members for Parliament as shall be legally so Elected (being persons capable to sit in Parliament) shall undergo the same, upon penalty

(11)  
of 500 l. to the use of the *Commonwealth* (unless some lawfull  
excuse of sickness, &c.) and that such Elected Members swear  
before the Sheriff, and two, or one Justice of the Peace; or, in *Cor-*  
*porations*, before the Mayor, &c. to perform their best endeavours  
for the places, for which they are elected; and for the *Commonwealth*  
in general. By this means, self-seeking and self-ended Members  
may be expunged; and yet sufficient, able, and knowing men  
elected,

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FINIS.